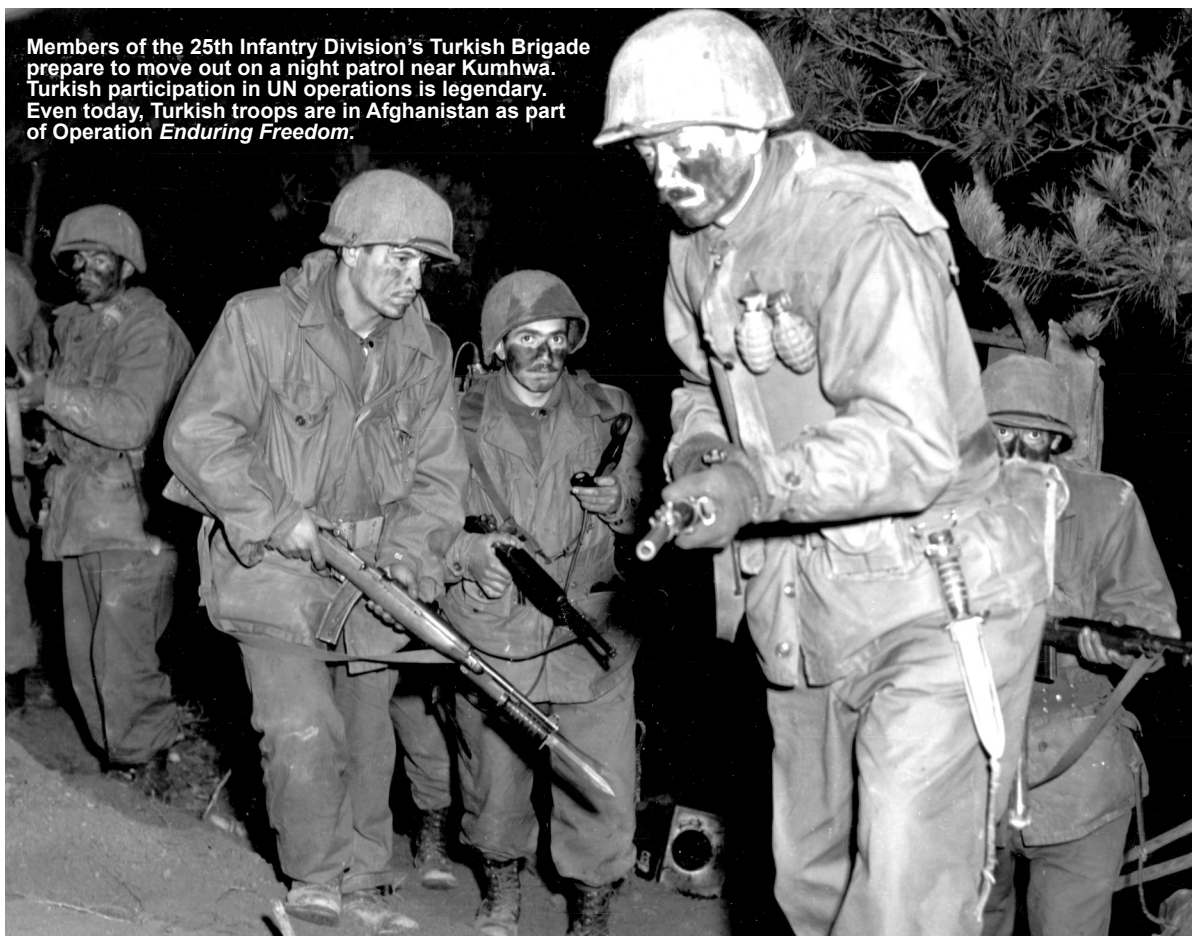


Members of the 25th Infantry Division's Turkish Brigade prepare to move out on a night patrol near Kumhwa. Turkish participation in UN operations is legendary. Even today, Turkish troops are in Afghanistan as part of Operation *Enduring Freedom*.



War in Korea, Presidio Press

## Fifty Years Ago: UN Troops in Korea

Fully 53 of the United Nations' 59 member states voted their approval of the 27 June 1950 Security Council resolution calling for support to help the Republic of Korea resist aggression. Nineteen nations offered varying degrees of trade, technical, or economic assistance; five sent medical teams; and 15, apart from the United States, sent military forces. While their troops, whose numbers peaked at about 44,000, were often referred to by pundits and armchair generals as little more than a token force when compared to the U.S. commitment of more than 300,000 men, their forces fought courageously time and time again and boosted the morale of American soldiers.

Initial difficulties arising from language barriers, different standards of training divergent tactical concepts, diverse dietary needs, and religious and national customs all were reconciled. Most problems were easily solved, but detailed planning was required for others. With the exception of the British Commonwealth troops, who were eventually merged into a full combat

division supplied out of British stocks, the other contingents were battalion- or brigade-sized units that were attached to American divisions after being reorganized, trained, and equipped along U.S. lines.

Different customs and tastes also presented unusual logistic and supply problems. All of the European contingents desired considerably more bread than U.S. troops. The Dutch wanted their milk and cheese and the French their bottle of wine. Because of religious restrictions, Turkish Moslems could not eat pork, and Indian Hindus could not eat beef. The Turks, however, wanted strong coffee and butter instead of margarine, while the Indians required rice and curry powder. Thailanders and Filipinos also needed rice as well as certain spices and strong tea. It was not too difficult a task to have American uniforms cut down in size to fit Far Eastern troops, but acquiring shoes for diminutive Thai feet was a quartermaster's nightmare. The Turks and Greeks, on the other hand, needed exceptionally wide boots.